hazy, the clouds heavy, and always dark; while *Kamtſchatka* appears like another world, where the land lies higher, and the air is clear and ſerene.

The ſnow lies always deeper upon the *Lopatka* than upon the northern ſide of *Kamtſchatka*; ſo that, if it be twelve feet in depth about the *Lopatka*, upon the *Awatſcha* and the Great River it is not ſo deep by one third, and at the ſame time lies lighter and more equal, by reaſon that the winds are not ſo high there. About *Tegbil* and *Karaga* the ſnow is ſeldom deeper than a foot and a half: hence the reaſon appears why the *Kamtſchadales* do not keep rein-deer as well as the *Koreki*, but depend upon the fiſh for their nouriſhment, which upon the north-eaſt and north-weſt coaſt from the Great River is ſo ſcarce, that unleſs theſe barbarous creatures could digeſt every thing they can get down, they would not be able to ſupport life; for, though throughout the country of *Kamtſchatka* there would be food enough for rein-deer, yet the depth of the ſnow renders it impoſſible to maintain a number of them; and what rein-deers we had occaſion for in the expedition were never kept here in the winter, the depth of the ſnow making it hard for them to dig down to their food.

The force of the ſun reflected from the ſnow in the ſpring is ſo great, that the inhabitants are as tawny as *Indians*; nay, they have their eyes ſpoiled and blinded thereby: therefore the natives generally wear covers pierced with ſmall holes, or nets of black hair, to leſſen the number of rays which would otherwiſe fall upon their eyes. This is occaſioned by the great winds, which drive the ſnow ſo cloſe together that it is almoſt as hard and ſolid as ice, and will not allow the rays of the ſun to penetrate, but reflects them with greater force upon the very delicate and ſenſible nerves of the retina than they are able to bear. Mr. *Steller* ſays, that neceſſity forced him to find out a remedy for the pain and inflammation of the eyes, which generally gave relief in ſix

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

exquiſite pain that the bear can make no further reſiſtance, and allows the hunter to lead him wherever he pleaſes, or ſtab him with his knife, without any danger.

The *Kamtſchadales*, however, look upon it as an affair of ſuch conſequence to kill a bear, that whoever has this honour, is obliged to feaſt all his neighbours; at which entertainment the bear's fleſh is the principal diſh; and, as a trophy, the bones of the head and thighs are hung round about their huts.

Of the bears' ſkins they make their beds and coverings, caps, gloves, and collars for their dogs. The fleſh and fat are their moſt delicate food; and the fat, when melted, is thin, and might be very well uſed with ſallad. With the guts they cover their faces in ſummer to keep off the ſun: ſometimes they uſe their ſkins as ſhoe-ſoles, to prevent them from ſliding upon the ice; and with their ſhoulder-blade bones, made ſharp, they cut graſs.

From the month of *June* to the end of harveſt the bears are very fat; but in the ſpring they are lean and dry. In the ſtomachs of thoſe killed in the ſpring nothing is found but a frothy ſlime: whence the inhabitants maintain the general opinion, that the bear has no food throughout the whole winter, but ſupports himſelf by ſucking his paws.

Although, as has been related above, wolves abound in *Kamtſchatka*, and their furrs are in great eſteem for cloaths, yet few are caught there. They differ in nothing from the wolves that are found in other places. By their cunning and fierceneſs they do more hurt to the inhabitants than their furrs bring profit; for they kill not only the wild deer, but even herds of the tame, notwithſtanding the latter have always a watch. Their favourite morſels ſeem to be the tongues of the deer, or even of the whales that are thrown upon the ſhore: they ſometimes ſteal the hares and foxes out of the traps and ſnares. White

wolves